

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary**

**FY13 Organic Transition**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> FY13 Organic Transition		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. a Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)? If answer is ?Yes?, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is ?No?, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Quality: Answer all questions that apply for a maximum of 45 points.	
2. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing practices that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter compaction, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one soil quality or enhancing practice that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 45 points	
3. a Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 110 points	
4. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes 595 Integrated Pest Management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b EQIP Schedule of operations includes implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on ?non-cropland? acreage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 590 Nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant Condition: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 90 points	
5. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering farm?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes practice(s) that support Integrated Pest Management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Water Conservation: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 50 points	
6. a Practices scheduled in the EQIP Schedule of Operations will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b EQIP Schedule of Operations will include practices that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Domestic Animals: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 60 points	
7. a EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing AND/OR 512 Pasture & Hayland Planting for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of practices to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not to include streams) are available in the treatment unit?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign a significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition Plan (138)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Franklin & Grand Isle LWG	
2. Does this application prevent or reduce direct discharge of nutrients to a waterway?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does this application contain two or more practices that will address contaminated runoff?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Does this application restore or protect riparian area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Bennington LWG	
7. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Will this application address animal waste contributing to a water quality concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Will this application include practices to improve energy use efficiency and/or will it reduce the use of fossil fuels?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
11. Will this application include practices which will improve pollinator and/or predator habitat for improved plant productivity and/or pest management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Caledonia LWG	
12. The application includes the implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing practices that address soil tilth, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc. to FOTG quality criteria standards.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. The application includes practices that will result in reduction of erosion to FOTG quality criteria standards.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. The application includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering the farm.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. The application includes 595 Integrated Pest Management which meets FOTG quality criteria.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
16. The application includes the implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing to FOTG quality criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed and other identified resource	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

needs.	
Essex LWG	
17. The application includes the implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing practices that address soil tilth, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc. to FOTG quality criteria standards.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. The application includes practices that will result in reduction of erosion to FOTG quality criteria standards.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. The application includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. The application includes 595 Integrated Pest Management which meets FOTG quality criteria.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
21. The application includes the implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing to FOTG quality criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed and other identified resource needs.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Otter Creek NRCD LWG	
22. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce phosphorus loading in any surface water in the Lake Champlain basin?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
23. Will this EQIP application reduce soil erosion and enhance soil quality on cropland? Answer yes if the following practices are in the application: conservation crop rotation (328), strip cropping (585), residue management, mulch (345), residue management no-till/strip till/direct seed (329), forage and biomass planting (512), or cover crop (340).	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
24. Will this application reduce reliance on purchased nutrients for crop or animal production? Answer yes if the application will result in a reduction of fertilizers applied, or improved crop quality (forage and biomass planting (512), enhanced rotation of pastures), etc.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
25. Will this EQIP application reduce Phosphorus loading in surface waters from the farmstead or feeding/watering area, or does the applicant have a nutrient management plan? Answer yes if: - run-off from these areas reach a ditch or water course within 200 feet and at least one practice will be installed to address this resource concern, or if the applicant has a nutrient management plan.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
26. Does this application include integrated pest management, and/or will it help the participant to address the management of invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Winooski NRCD LWG	
27. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce phosphorus loading in any surface water in the Lake Champlain basin?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
28. Will this EQIP application reduce soil erosion and enhance soil quality on cropland? Answer yes if the following practices are in the application: - Conservation crop rotation (328) - Strip cropping (585) - Residue management, mulch (345) - Residue management no-till/strip till/direct seed (329) - Forage and biomass planting (512) - Cover crop (340)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
29. Will this application reduce reliance on purchased nutrients for crop or animal production? Answer yes if: - The application will result in a reduction of fertilizers applied, or improved crop quality (forage and biomass planting (512), enhanced rotation of pastures), etc.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
30. Will this EQIP application reduce phosphorus loading in surface waters from the farmstead or feeding/watering area, or does the applicant have a nutrient management plan? Answer yes if: - Run-off from these areas reach a ditch or water course within 200 feet and at least one practice will be installed to address this resource concern, or if the applicant has a nutrient management plan.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
31. Does this application include integrated pest management, and/or will it help the participant to address the management of invasive species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Lamoille LWG	
32. Does this application prevent or reduce direct discharge of nutrients to a waterway?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
33. Does this application contain two or more practices that will address contaminated runoff?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
34. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
35. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
36. Does this application restore or protect riparian area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Orleans County District LWG	
37. The application includes the implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing practices that	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

address soil tilth, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc. to FOTG quality criteria standards.	
38. The application includes practices that will result in reduction of erosion to FOTG quality criteria standards.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
39. The application includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
40. The application includes 595 Integrated Pest Management which meets FOTG quality criteria.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
41. The application includes the implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing to FOTG quality criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed and other identified resource needs.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Ottawaquechee LWG	
42. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce nitrogen loading in any surface water in the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
43. Does this application include practices which will improve availability and/or diversity of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
44. Does this application include practices to address water quality resource concerns through improved nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
45. Will this application include practices that will address soil erosion concerns within 100 feet of a blue line stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
46. Does this application include integrated pest management, and/or will it help the participant to address an invasive plant problem?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Poultney Mettowee NRCD LWG	
47. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
48. Will this application address animal waste contributing to a water quality concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
49. Will this application include practices to improve energy use efficiency and/or will it reduce the use of fossil fuels?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
50. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
51. Will this application include practices which will improve pollinator and/or predator habitat for improved plant productivity and/or pest management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Rutland NRCD LWG	
52. Will this application include practices and/or management changes that will provide benefits to soil quality where a documented soil quality resource concern exists or where needed based on a soil health assessment?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
53. Will this application address animal waste contributing to a water quality concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
54. Will this application include practices to improve energy use efficiency and/or will it reduce the use of fossil fuels?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
55. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
56. Will this application include practices which will improve pollinator and/or predator habitat for improved plant productivity and/or pest management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
White River District LWG	
57. The application includes the implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing practices that address soil tilth, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc. to FOTG quality criteria standards.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
58. The application includes practices that will result in reduction of erosion to FOTG quality criteria standards.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
59. The application includes practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminates from entering the farm.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
60. The application includes 595 Integrated Pest Management which meets FOTG quality criteria.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
61. The application includes the implementation of practice 528 Prescribed Grazing to FOTG quality	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

criteria standards for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed and other identified resource needs.	
Windham LWG	
62. Does this application include integrated pest management, and/or will it help the participant to address an invasive plant problem?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
63. Does this application include practices which will improve availability of local foods for local markets for improved energy conservation (source to market distance of less than 25 miles)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
64. Will this application include practices that help reduce nitrogen loading or soil erosion that lead into surface waters that feed into the Connecticut River?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
65. Will this application include the installation of a more efficient irrigation system to address water quantity resource concerns?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
66. Does this application include crop rotation, cover crop, nutrient management, or residue management to improve soil health?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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**Ranking Score**

Efficiency:  Local Issues:  State Issues:  National Issues:  <b>Final Ranking Score:</b>
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<b>NRCS Representative:</b>   <b>Signature Date:</b>	<b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b>   <b>Signature Date:</b>
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